

Appln. No.: 10/031,980
Amdt. dated March 15, 2005
Reply to Office action of 09/16/2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of fabricating a waistband comprising the steps of; [treating a woven fabric, which is a non-synthetic textile material, for example wool or cotton, which cannot normally be permanently set by heat alone to produce a stretchable fabric combination which comprises] applying heat and pressure to [the] a layer of woven fabric strands along the length of the layer to force [in such a manner that] the [yarn] fabric strands substantially across the width of the fabric [are forced] closer together [thus] to impart[ing generally] a semi-permanent stretch into the fabric, [while] simultaneously [at least partially] compressing [bonding] [thereto] a layer of synthetic thermoplastic interlining [fabric] along the layer of the interlining to introduce a compressive shrinkage in the interlining, and [which is a] bonding the layer of synthetic thermoplastic interlining to the fabric layer while both layers are in the compressed state [material and can be heat set, such as a polyester or polyamide textile material].

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the bonding is carried out by coating or film which as well as bonding will impart stretch to the final combined product.

5. **(Original)** A method as claimed in claim 4 in which the bonding coating or film is a polyurethane material.

6. **(Previously presented)** A method as claimed in claim 4 in which the bonding coating or film is coated on either the woven non-synthetic fabric or the interlining fabric or is a film interposed between the two.

7. **(Previously presented)** A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the interlining material used is a fine woven polyamide or polyester fabric.

8. **(Original)** A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein a standard rigid fusible non-woven or other relatively right knitted material is processed in narrow width form with a stretch waistband fabric to produce a laminate which has stretch characteristics in the length direction.

9. **(Original)** A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the stretch fabric is tensioned during processing with the interlining so that it is compressively 'shrunk' back to its original dimensions.

10. **(Currently amended)** A waistband comprising; ~~[[fabric made by applying heat and pressure to]]~~ a layer of woven fabric strands that is a non-synthetic textile material which cannot normally be permanently set by heat alone in ~~[[such a manner that the yarn strands substantially]]~~ a compressed state along and across the width of the fabric layer to force the fabric strands ~~[[are forced]]~~ closer together ~~[[thus~~

~~imparting]]~~ to impart a generally semi-permanent stretch into the fabric layer, ~~[[while simultaneously at least partially bonding thereto]]~~ a layer of synthetic interlining ~~[[fabric which is]]~~ of a thermoplastic ~~[[and]]~~ that can be heat set and in a compressed state along the layer of the interlining to introduce a compressive shrinkage in the interlining, said layer of synthetic thermoplastic interlining being bonded to said fabric layer to maintain both layers in the compressed state.

Claim 11 **(Canceled)**

Claim 12 **(Canceled)**

13. **(Previously presented)** A fabric set as set forth in claim 10 wherein the synthetic interlining material comprises a fine woven fabric.

14. **(Previously presented)** A fabric as set forth in claim 10 wherein said interlining material comprises one of a polyamide and a polyester.

15. **(New)** A method of treating a woven fabric strip to produce a stretchable fabric combination which comprises the steps of:

(a) passing the strip lengthwise through a fabric treatment apparatus, the fabric treatment apparatus applying pressure to the fabric along its length and also heat in such a manner that the yarn strands substantially across the width of the fabric strip are forced closer together thus imparting generally semi permanent stretch into the fabric; and

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(b) simultaneously passing a synthetic interlining fabric through said apparatus thereby applying a compressive shrinkage thereto; and

(c) at least partially bonding the woven fabric to the synthetic interlining fabric.